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LETTER DATED 9 JUNE 1991 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I.
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that the Government of the Republic of Iraq has, since its acceptance on 6 April 1991 of Security Council resolution 687 (1991), assiduously cooperated with the United Nations Special Commission and the International Atomic Energy Agency in order to comply with its commitments under section C of the resolution. In this connection, I refer in particular to the letter dated 18 April 1991 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General, to his letter of 27 April 1991 addressed to the International Atomic Energy Agency and to the references in both those letters to arrangements for compliance with Iraq's commitments under section C of resolution 687 (1991), as well as to the letters which I addressed to the Executive Chairman of the Special Commission, including my letters of 19 and 22 May 1991.

The visit by the nuclear facilities inspection team from 14 to 22 May 1991 provided an opportunity to evaluate my country's cooperation with the Special Commission and the International Atomic Energy Agency. At the end of its visit, the International Atomic Energy Agency issued a statement noting Iraq's full cooperation and response to all the requests submitted by the inspection team.

My country's Government wishes to affirm its absolute readiness to cooperate with respect to the implementation of section C and its desire not to raise any obstacle to implementation of the resolution. Unfortunately, my Government notes that paragraph 3 of the draft resolution now before the Security Council, concerning adoption of the Secretary-General's plan for the implementation of section C of resolution 687 (1991), makes the Government of Iraq liable for all the costs of carrying out the tasks entrusted to the Secretary-General. My Government has no alternative but to state its rejection of liability for the cost of destroying the chemical weapons. On the other hand, it affirms its willingness to cooperate and, by its own efforts voluntarily to destroy or render harmless the said weapons. It has at

its disposal the necessary expertise and technical facilities to do so in a way that will achieve the desired objective under the supervision and to the satisfaction of United Nations experts. My Government is prepared to discuss this subject with United Nations experts in order to confirm the destruction plan formulated by its technicians and to establish the plan's exact details by carrying out practical tests and determining what additional measures the destruction will require, together with any additional input of resources, in accordance with internationally accepted procedures in this regard.

Participating in this way will reduce the cost of destruction and the period of time required for implementation of the destruction plan and also reduce the dangers arising for the United Nations inspection teams during the destruction process, especially at a time of extremely hot and dusty local weather conditions.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Samir K. K. AL-NIMA
Chargé d'affaires a.i.